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General Assembly

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Seventy-first session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretariat

The attention of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is drawn to the following provisions of General Assembly resolution 70/305, as highlighted in the first report of the General Committee (A/71/250), which was considered by the Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2016:

(a) Paragraph 16 of the resolution, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed existing relevant mandates related to the improvement of the working methods of the Main Committees, including section C of the annex to resolution 58/316, paragraphs 7 to 13 of resolution 59/313, cluster III of the annex to resolution 60/286 and resolution 69/321, in particular paragraphs 16 and 17 thereof (see A/71/250, para. 9);

(b) Paragraph 17 of the resolution, in which the Assembly requested each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session and invited the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly during the seventy-first session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate (see ibid., para. 11);

(c) The relevant provisions of the resolution concerning the interim arrangement approved in decision 68/505 recommending a pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees until the seventy-third session, as well as the guidelines on the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees as contained in the annex to resolution 68/307 (see ibid., para. 12);

(d) The relevant provisions of the resolution relating to the request of the Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group to prepare long-term arrangements concerning the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism, in consultation with regional groups, and to submit them to the Assembly no later than at the seventy-second session, and the invitation to Member States to present

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proposals and to devote early attention to the matter of concluding a future arrangement, which would come into effect at the seventy-fourth session, with the annex to resolution 68/307 containing an option to be considered in that context (see ibid., para. 13);

(e) Paragraph 24 of the resolution, in which the Assembly recalled rules 153 and 154 of its rules of procedure and encouraged the Chairs of the Main Committees and the Secretary-General to ensure observance of those rules, within their respective mandates (see ibid., para. 54);

(f) Paragraph 26 of the resolution, on the need to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of meetings of the Assembly, including high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing their interactivity and effectiveness, especially during the general debate, and distribution of such events throughout the session (see ibid., para. 23);

(g) Paragraph 31 of the resolution, in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of Chairs of the Main Committees (see ibid., para. 14);

(h) Paragraph 32 of the resolution, in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs, reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents and in that regard requested the Secretariat to further improve, harmonize and, where appropriate, unify such e-services (see ibid., para. 46).